



1250 Connecticut Ave NW Suite 825
Washington, DC 20036
USA
Telephone: (+1) 866 440 7515
Website: www.densusgroup.com

SUBJECT: DENSUS CEO JOHN PONCY INTERVIEWED ON
RT NEWS ON PARIS TERRORIST ATTACK

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21 APR 17: Densus CEO John Poncy was interviewed today on RT News on the deadly terrorist attacks in Paris that took place last night. He spoke on preparedness, prevention, and the path forward in the fight against terrorism. Below is the link and text of the interview:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCHzZzMb_Mg&feature=youtu.be

Manila Chan: All right, joining me now to talk more about the attack in Paris is John Poncy, CEO of The Densus Group. John, good of you to be with us today. So as we saw there, the shooter was apparently known to police, he had allegedly made threats to Paris police earlier this year, but was then released. Should the French police have kept a closer eye on this man?

John Poncy: Well, of course, it's a challenge always to keep track of millions of people in the country the size of France, and even if you translate that down to the tactical level, to keep track of that many people on the Champs-Elysees is difficult enough. But they've got to be able to track their main threats, they've got to be able to put the time and effort that's required in to knowing where they are at all times, knowing what they are doing. I don't want to sound like Big Brother, but the truth is you've got to be able to put that kind of vigilance in place in order to be effective.

Manila Chan: Sure, but did they actually, though, drop the ball on this one, are they prepared to even prevent another terrorist attack in Paris?

John Poncy: Well, let's look at the big picture. Since 2010 there were about 284 terrorist attacks. It was in the teens for about three years, up to about 2013, went up to about 38 in 2014, and then in 2015 it spiked to about 119 terrorist attacks. 9729 were killed, 16,600 people were injured. The truth of that is, that looks like a very bad trend. Now, suddenly, in 2016, it dropped down to about 40% of that (the number I believe was 48). So if you look at it from that perspective, we are clearly doing some things right - things are improving. Now, I don't know whether that comes from a combination of terrorist financing and anti-money-laundering work, or it comes from tracking people better, or it comes from more funding, or it comes from even the potential to, you know, break into the Internet better and track the emails that are going back-and-forth. But the nature of this is what makes it so difficult. This is not a coordinated terrorist attack that had emails going from right to left -

Manila Chan: - Right, I was just going to ask you about that. We are saying that these are smaller scale attacks, so would you actually label this one, though, a terrorist attack, even though it appears that he was targeting, specifically, the police?

John Poncy: That's a great question. I am finding more and more, at least in my mind, and I don't want to speak for everybody here, that the line between terrorism and crime is blurring. Now terrorism, of course, is a crime, but the line is blurring to the point where if someone is driving

down the road and decides right away "Hey, you know what? I'm going to drive my car into a Nice crowd," or "into the London bridge crowd," or something along those lines, I don't know if there is a whole lot you can do to stop it. So from my perspective, if you look at it and say, "What can we do to stop this?", I harken back to Rudy Giuliani in the 90s and what he did to stop crime in New York City.

Marina Chan: Broken windows?

John Poncy: (Nods) Cleaned up taxi cabs, that kind of thing, exactly. But the work he did, The effort he did, made it a much safer place. People believed in it again. So from my perspective, if you're going to do that kind of work, and you trust the French police to do that, they've got to get back down to the rudimentary level of tracking people and knowing where they are.

Manila Chan: OK, it comes down to personal liberties, because even though ISIS is claiming responsibility for the attack, this man was a French national, so far we don't know that he has traveled anywhere outside of France, he was a French national, officials don't believe he was ever radicalized until recently, they believe that he was, what they are calling, you know, self-radicalized. How can law enforcement keep tabs on somebody like that, or anybody that's going to self-radicalize?

John Poncy: Well, you've always got civil liberties that are going to be on one side of the spectrum, and protecting your people on the other. To me, I honestly believe the only thing that's going to help this is going to come out of the Muslim community. It's going to come out of the community where their radicals are putting them in a bad light. So if I am a Muslim, and I live in an enclave in Paris, and there is no travel ban, and radical Muslims are coming in, that affects me tremendously. Number one they live in my neighborhood, and perpetrate crime in my neighborhood. Number two they are much more visible to me than they are to the local law-enforcement. So I've got to help out.

Manila Chan: You're saying the every-day Muslim that's in these neighborhoods in Paris, in Germany, that they need to participate more?

John Poncy: I think they need to be willing to step up and say "This is wrong, it's affecting the way people view us." Everybody's afraid of Islamaphobia - and for good reason. But the truth is, if I am a Muslim and I'm living in an area where there is that kind of nefarious activities going on, I need to be able to step up and say "Hey, this is not what I want in this country, this is why I left that country where I came from, I need to step up and help the police be successful here."

Manila Chan: More "See something, say something," within that community?

John Poncy: Exactly.

Manila Chan: John Poncy, thank you so much for sharing your expertise with us.

John Poncy: Thank you.

The Densus Group is a US Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) with headquarters in Plano, Texas. Founded to advocate the professional and appropriate use of force, Densus works to support the Departments of State, Justice and Defense, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Densus provides worldwide deployment and service delivery, with solutions that are specifically designed to meet both political and operational requirements while adhering to sustainability and global best practices that include holistic human rights compliance. For more information, visit www.thedensusgroup.com.

